

This listing of claims will replace the prior version in the application.

Claims

1. (original) A composition comprising a mixture of monoalkyl and polyalkyl lactyllactates of formula:



in which R represents an alkyl radical containing a number of carbon atoms ranging from 1 to 4 and n is an integer equal to 2, 3 or 4.

2. (original) The composition as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the alkyl radical is a methyl, ethyl, isopropyl or n-butyl radical.

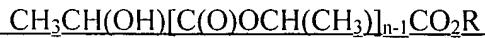
3. (original) The composition as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the alkyl radical is an ethyl radical.

4. (presently amended) The composition as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that it comprises claim 1 comprising 100 parts by weight of:~~

- 35 to 85 parts by weight of alkyl lactyllactate (~~n = 2 in formula (I)~~, AL₂ below;
- 10 to 60 parts by weight of alkyl dilactyllactate (~~n = 3 in formula (I)~~, AL₃ below; and
- 1 to 20 parts by weight of alkyl trilactyllactate (~~n = 4 in formula (I)~~, AL₄ below; AL₂ + AL₃ + AL₄ representing 100 parts by weight.

5. (presently amended) The composition as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that it also contains claim 1, further comprising an alkyl lactate of formula CH₃CH(OH)CO₂R (II) in which R has the same meaning as in formula (I), represents an alkyl radical containing a number of carbon atoms ranging from 1 to 4, in a proportion of from 0.1 to 1 part by weight per 100 parts by weight of the mixture AL₂ + AL₃ + AL₄ said composition.~~

6. (presently amended) The composition as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that it also contains claim 4, further comprising polyalkyl lactyllactates (II) of formula:~~



in which R represents an alkyl radical containing a number of carbon atoms ranging from 1 to 4 and in which n is greater than 4, in a proportion of from 0.1 to 4 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of ~~the mixture AL₂+AL₃+AL₄ said composition.~~

7. (presently amended) The use of a composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 as an agent for cleaning and/or degreasing metallic components.
8. (presently amended) The use of a composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, also containing in combination with at least one solvent, as an agent for cleaning and/or degreasing metallic components.
9. (original) The use as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the solvent is n-butyl butoxypropionate.

Respectfully submitted,



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